

Appln. No.: 09/373,230
Amdt. dated: January 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2006

PRESS LIMITED, pages 57-59 and 224-228, (1994) are attached following page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18(New). An isolated interferon-gamma (IFN- γ) production inducing protein, also known as IGIF and IL-18, which has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the Xaa in SEQ ID NO:2 is Met or Thr, and wherein, in SEQ ID NO:2, (i) one or more amino acids are replaced with other amino acids, (ii) one or more amino acids are added to the N- and C-terminals in SEQ ID NO:2, and/or (iii) one or more amino acids in the N- and C-terminals in SEQ ID NO:2 are deleted, said protein inducing IFN- γ production when administered to mouse and rat, exhibiting a single protein band when electrophoresed on sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), and having a molecular weight of 19,000 \pm 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and SDS-PAGE.

19(New). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and, as an active ingredient, the protein of claim 18.